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1994/03/01

HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Communications and Customer Services
P.O. Box 92919 (S64/A410)
Los Angeles, CA 90009
(310) 364-6363

HUGHES

Subsidiary of GM Hughes Electronics

HUGHES SIGNS DEAL TO PURCHASE LONG MARCH LAUNCHES

LOS ANGELES, CA, Mar. 1, 1994 -- Hughes Communications International, Inc. (HCI) signed a contract yesterday with China Great Wall Industries for the launch of the Optus B3 satellite during the summer of this year, pending approval of an export license. The process for the export license is underway.

Additionally, Hughes announced an agreement with China Great Wall Industries for additional launch services through the end of the decade.

Hughes was the first western satellite manufacturer to have one of its satellites launched aboard a Long March rocket when an LM3 lifted the Asiasat 1 spacecraft into space in 1990. One of two earlier Hughes-built Optus B satellites was also successfully flown on Long March in 1992. In addition, APSTAR 1 and APSTAR 2, also built by Hughes, are scheduled for launch in July and December 94, respectively.

The satellites are manufactured for HCI by Hughes Space and Communications Company (HSC), which is the world's leading manufacturer of commercial communications satellites. HSC, which launched its 100th communications satellite in December 1993, is a component of Hughes Aircraft Company, a unit of GM Hughes Electronics Corporation.

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To = Dick Scott
From: Patrick Seitz